



Connecticut Department of

ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

February 2, 2012

**Re: *Compliance Waiver for Newly Constructed Gasoline Dispensing Facilities Operating under R.C.S.A. Section 22a-174-30 (Stage II Vapor Recovery).***

Dear Gasoline Dispensing Facility Owners and Operators:

As part of the ongoing efforts by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to identify unnecessary regulatory burdens, the Department undertook an intensive study of gasoline vapor recovery in Connecticut. As explained below, DEEP found that the Stage II vapor recovery program is rapidly becoming obsolete.

Stage II vapor recovery systems capture gasoline fumes that would otherwise be released into the air every time we fill the tank. These gasoline fumes contribute to the formation of smog in Connecticut. Beginning in 1992, owners of gasoline stations in Connecticut were required to install these air pollution control devices. Newer cars and trucks manufactured since 1996, however, have built-in, onboard vapor recovery equipment. Because these newer vehicles now constitute a high percentage of vehicles driven in Connecticut, there is a rapidly diminishing air quality benefit for new or existing gasoline pumps to be equipped with Stage II vapor recovery systems. We estimate that Stage II vapor recovery program will cease providing air quality benefits as early as summer 2012.

Because these Stage II vapor recovery systems soon will no longer provide air quality benefits, DEEP hereby waives its requirement to install Stage II vapor recovery systems at newly constructed gasoline stations from this date forward. DEEP also is currently working with stakeholders to design a plan to phase-out Stage II vapor control systems at existing gasoline stations in a manner that protects air quality and public health. DEEP also is in the process of re-examining its program to control vapor losses from gasoline tanker truck deliveries, known as the Stage I vapor recovery program.

Connecticut's redesigned gasoline vapor control programs will be submitted to EPA for approval upon completion. We understand that EPA currently is working on similar changes to the federal regulations governing these vapor recovery systems. However, the federal requirements will remain in place until EPA completes its policy review process.

If you have any questions, please contact Timothy Marsh of DEEP's Air Bureau, at 860-424-3702.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Macky McCleary", is written over a faint, stylized red line that forms a large, loopy shape.

Macky McCleary  
Deputy Commissioner